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# Scientists threatened by 'security' ploy

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The Reagan administration has told U.S. scientists to cooperate in the new cold war or else.

This message was delivered by Adm. Bobby R. Inman, deputy director of the CIA, to the annual meeting of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington last week.

In a panel discussion on Scientific Freedom and National Security, Inman advised scientists to establish a voluntary system by which research in sensitive areas would be reviewed by security agencies before research proposals were funded and before results were published. If this system was not set up, Inman threatened that a "tidal wave" of public outrage would force Congress to enact measures to prevent the leakage of security-related information to the Soviet Union.

Inman later said he was expressing a personal view and not that of the CIA. Nonetheless, it is clear that his talk is part of a long-term strategy to increase Department of Defense control over scientists, especially those at universities.

Over the last year, scientific exchange programs with the Soviet Union have been reduced drastically. In a letter published in

the AAAS journal Science two weeks ago, Deputy Secretary of Defense Frank C. Carlucci attempted to justify this by arguing, "The Soviets exploit scientific exchanges as well as a variety of other means in a highly orchestrated, centrally directed effort aimed at gathering the technical information required to enhance their military posture. In addition, the sale of high-technology equipment to the Soviet Union has been curtailed."

These developments are causing concern among scientists. William Carey, executive director of the AAAS, said that scientists did not want to be subject "to the whims of unknown people inside the walls of the military, not just about immediate problems, but potential ones."

Even some scientists with close ties to the military are upset. Marvil L. Goldberger, president of the California Institute of Technology, said he would go slowly on restricting the exchange of knowledge or ideas, because such restrictions simply drive the best scientists away from doing important research. Goldberger, a well-known theoretical physicist, was a founder of JASON, an elite group of academic scientists that designed the automated battlefield used in Vietnam.

In an attempt to allay the fears of scientists without losing their support, White House deputy press secretary Larry Speakes stated Jan. 8, "The administration is very concerned about the loss of technology to the Soviets. It is a matter being seriously addressed by a number of departments and agencies. There is no consideration being given to any mandatory program for review of scientific papers."

At the same time, an official displayed a circuit board claimed to be from a Soviet buoy fished out of the water off the North Carolina coast about six months ago. This buoy, he said, measures ocean currents and temperatures and radios this information back to the Soviet Union for possible use in antisubmarine warfare. The circuits, he said, are "direct copies of U.S. circuits."

Inman's proposal has a precedent, in which he himself was involved; a voluntary system has been established in which mathematicians working in codemaking and codebreaking submit their papers to the National Security Agency for clearance before publication. However, Inman's speech is a major escalation to include such areas as computer hardware and software, other electronic gear and techniques, crop projections, and manufacturing procedures.